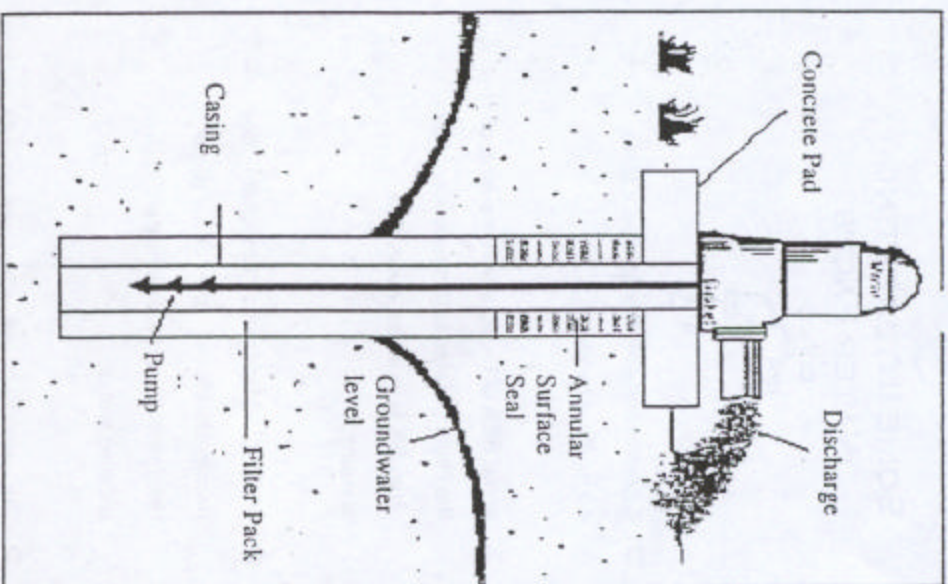


GROUNDWATER TIPS: WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT THE COMMUNITY'S WATER SUPPLY

- 1 Never dump used motor oil, gas, household chemicals or pesticides onto the ground. For free, safe disposal contact the Clean Sweep Program at (616) 983-7111.
- 2 Have your septic system checked every other year to insure that it is working properly.
- 3 Close any abandoned wells on your property. They are a hazard to groundwater quality and a liability to you.
- 4 Follow instructions for use of fertilizers and pesticides. Over-application of these products can be harmful to the environment.
- 5 If you have a private well, test your water annually.

6 If you have any specific concerns, contact the Niles Twp. Wellhead Protection Program at (616) 684-5647

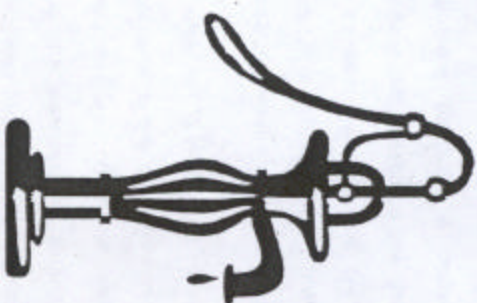


A typical water well.

NILES TOWNSHIP WELLHEAD PROTECTION PROGRAM

Gary Schrader
322 Bell Rd.
Niles, MI 49120
(616) 684-5647

NILES TOWNSHIP WELLHEAD PROTECTION PROGRAM



HELPING TO
PROVIDE CLEAN,
SAFE DRINKING
WATER FOR OUR
COMMUNITY.

Gary Schrader
322 Bell Rd.
Niles, MI 49120
Phone: (616) 684-5647

WHAT IS A WELLHEAD PROTECTION PROGRAM?

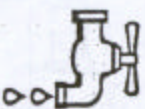
Niles Township has recently established a wellhead protection program. The purpose of this program is to find and eliminate sources of groundwater contamination in the area around the township's municipal wells.

To preserve the quality of the water in our community, we are asking local residents to help. Groundwater contamination is expensive and time consuming to clean up, but preventing contamination from occurring costs very little. If we are aware of how our actions affect the environment, we can be sure to protect our water resources.

What are we asking of you?

Please take a few minutes to read over this brochure, and consider how your actions could affect groundwater. Take a moment to fill out the enclosed response card and send it back to us. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated, and will help insure that we have clean drinking water for generations to come. Thank you.

SOME INTERESTING WATER FACTS



- A person can only live for about three days without water.
- About 95% of the total water supply of the United States is Groundwater. The other 5% is in lakes, rivers and streams.
- 43% of Michigan's Residents and nearly 100% of the State's rural residents rely on Groundwater for their drinking water.
- One quart of oil can contaminate 250,000 gallons of water.
- Every year in Michigan, more oil is spilled on the ground than was spilled by the Exxon Valdez into Alaska's Prince William Sound.
- Cleaning up groundwater contamination is often a very costly and time-consuming process.

WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

Since 1984, Niles Township has been providing a municipal water supply. The Township currently has three wells which pump water from a sand and gravel aquifer 160 feet below the ground surface.

Niles Township provides water to about 1,800 residents. Its wells pump approximately 440,000 gallons of groundwater per day to fulfill the township's water needs.

For your information...

Abandoned, unused wells can contribute to groundwater contamination. They are a direct conduit for surface water to enter groundwater, preventing the soil from performing its natural filtering functions.

Abandoned wells are an unnecessary liability. They present a hazard to groundwater, and a falling hazard, especially to children. Abandoned wells can be closed at a very low cost with help from the Niles Twp. Wellhead Protection Program. For more information call Gary Schrader at the Niles Twp. Dept. of Public Works: (616) 684-5674.